

Amendments to the Specification:

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 1, line 1 as follows:

This is a continuation application of Serial No. 09/129,137, filed on August 4, 1998, entitled IN-LINE PACKET PROCESSING, now Patent No. 6,791,947, which is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 08/844,171 filed on April 18, 1997, now Patent No. 5,905,725, and a continuation-in-part of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 08/767,576 filed on December 16, 1996, now Patent No. 5,909,440 the contents of which are hereby incorporated by reference.